

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) 738-4601  
Fax: (213) 386-1297

April 6, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Southard", is written over the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE  
SOURCE CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA MENTAL  
HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (CMHDA)**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100 Sole Source Contracts. It is the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into sole source contract agreement with the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), located at 2125 19<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95818.

CMHDA is a non-profit advocacy association comprised of Mental Health Directors from each of the 58 counties within the State of California, as well as the cities of Berkeley and Tri-City. Its mission is to provide leadership, advocacy, expertise and support to California county mental health programs charged with serving individuals with serious mental illness. In collaboration with various entities, CMHDA has made outstanding strides in their efforts to ensure social justice, wellness, resiliency, and recovery to the mental health population within our communities. With the formation of a sole source contract agreement, CMHDA will continue to receive the necessary resources to effectively represent the Department's interest in mental health issues to the State Department of Mental Health, Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission, and other important stakeholders dealing with the development of public policy and various legislative regulations.

CMHDA is the only agency within the State of California that can speak directly to the issues that each agency is facing in dealing with the complexities of mental illness. Its unique organizational structure of Mental Health Directors has enabled them to establish various legislative acts necessary to meet County and City strategic objectives in relationship to quality of care, funding, and promoting consumer-oriented policies that support wellness and recovery efforts. The success of their collaborative efforts has made a significant impact in ensuring accessibility of quality services. In addition, it is

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cost-effective and contributes to the delivery of culturally competent mental health care in California. Without CMHDA's level of leadership, advocacy and support to the communities that provide mental health services, the quality of care will be seriously impacted. No other entity within the State has this level of support or direct expertise to develop policy that speaks directly to the issues of the mental health community. With the approval of a sole source agreement with CMHDA, DMH will receive uninterrupted services and incur a significant cost savings by forfeiting the RFS process which requires significant resources in time, funding and staffing to complete. The formation of a sole source contract renewal with CMHDA will allow DMH to continue its efforts in addressing regulatory issues that are currently impacting the public mental health system and the level of services provided to our consumers.

This sole source contract agreement will be for a term of three Fiscal Years (FYs), 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013. The contract will be funded with Sales Tax Realignment (CGF) in the amount of \$145,700, Intrafund Transfer from DCFS in the amount of \$15,000, and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Planning and Implementation in the amount of \$99,227, for a total of \$259,927.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office, DMH will proceed with negotiating a sole source contract agreement within two weeks. DMH will work closely with both the Office of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing an agreement with CMHDA.

MJS:DM:ST:aj

c: Health Deputies  
Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Robin Kay, Ph.D.  
Dennis Murata, M.S.W.  
Sandra D. Thomas, L.C.S.W.